

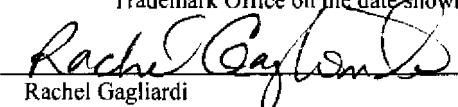
**P A T E N T**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

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|---|-------------------------------|
| Applicant: ALAN SHLUZAS et al.  | Confirmation No.: 3377        |
| Serial No.: 10/658,736  | Examiner: Nicholas W. Woodall |
| Filed: SEPTEMBER 9, 2003  | Group Art Unit: 3733          |
| Docket No.: 1291.1138101  | Customer No.: 28075           |
| Title: METHODS AND APPARATUSES FOR TREATING THE SPINE<br>THROUGH AN ACCESS DEVICE |                               |

**AMENDMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH 37 CFR §1.111**  
**RESPONSE**

Mail Stop: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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| <b><u>CERTIFICATE FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION</u></b>  |                        |
| I hereby certify that this paper(s) is being electronically transmitted to the U.S. Patent and<br>Trademark Office on the date shown below |                        |
| <br>Rachel Gagliardi                                    | <u>2/19/08</u><br>Date |

Dear Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Official Action of the Examiner mailed November 19, 2007, setting a three-month shortened statutory period for response ending February 19, 2008. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0413.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.